



TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

403 Seventh Avenue North

Nashville, TN 37243

WORKSHOP SERIES

Just as We Are: Family History Research at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives and Disciples of Christ Historical Society

Saturday, May 2, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Religious records document church life and activities, but are also rich sources for family history research. The Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives and Disciples of Christ Historical Society, both located in Nashville, house similar types of records for genealogical research. This workshop provides insight into various sources and formats for discovering ancestors who served as ministers, missionaries, and members of Baptist and DC/CC congregations. Both the novice and experienced genealogist will benefit from the sessions' content. Handouts and information packets will be provided for participants.

Workshop Format

9:00 a.m. – Introduction and Overview of the SBHLA and DCHS

This session begins with an overview of Baptist and Disciples of Christ/Church of Christ organizations and polity, including explanations of how various branches and churches of each religious group relate and function. Presenters then provide brief histories of each denomination, establishing a context for genealogists to examine religious records.

9:30 a.m. – Sources for Baptist and DC/CC Family History Research, Part 1

This session identifies sources that provide general information on ministers and missionaries. Biographical files, state religious histories, ministerial directories, missionary yearbooks, and marriage and death indices offer broad information on Baptist and DC/CC ancestors. These sources help identify historical information on a minister's family and areas of pastoral service and are the best starting point for family history research.

10:10 a.m. – Break

10:25 a.m. – Sources for Baptist and DC/CC Family History Research, Part 2

A closer examination of Baptist and DC/CC records reveals nontraditional sources that provide useful genealogical information. State and associational annuals reveal statistical information on churches where family members pastored or belonged. Annuals also contain lists of ministers and messengers and may list obituaries. Church records (on microfilm or hard copy) contain membership rolls which can assist in relating family members; clerk minutes offer a glimpse into weekly church activities. Denominational publications include letters to the editor, obituaries, and other information also useful to genealogists. This session teaches participants how to use these sources most effectively.

11:10 a.m. – Wrap Up, Q & A

Presenters:

Taffey Hall is Archivist for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. She is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists and holds a Masters degree in History from Middle Tennessee State University and Bachelors degree in History from Tennessee Wesleyan College.

McGarvey Ice, Director of Public Services for the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, holds an M.Div., M.A., and B.A. from David Lipscomb University.

Those wishing to attend the workshop must contact TSLA to reserve a seat as the number of attendees is limited. Reservations can be made via e-mail to workshop.tsla@state.tn.us. Patrons can also register by telephone by calling 615-741-2764. Parking is available in front, on the side, and in back of the Library and Archives building.